



Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations

STATEMENT

BY

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Madam President,

Thank you for convening this vital meeting and for your exemplary leadership of the Council this month. We would like to thank Ms. Roza Otunbayeva, Special Representative of Secretary-General, Mr. Tom Fletcher, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator and Ambassador Andres Montalvo Sosa, Chair of Security Council Committee (1988) for your sobering briefings. I thank Ms. Roya Mahboob, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of the Digital Citizen Fund for exemplifying the power and resilience of Afghan women by sharing your story.

We are grateful to the briefers for their sobering remarks and to previous speakers for their unwavering commitment to the people of Afghanistan especially its women and girls, including the joint statement by the Council Members signatory to shared Commitment on Women, Peace and Security.

We also commend the outgoing Council members—Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, and Switzerland—for their exceptional service during these turbulent times. Your dedication has set a high standard of collaboration that Afghanistan deeply appreciates. We particularly recognize Japan's tireless efforts as the penholder for Afghanistan's file.

Madam President,

Afghanistan is entering its fourth year under Taliban rule, enduring a devastating humanitarian crisis compounded by social, political instability and systematic human rights violations, especially against women and girls. We mourn the hard-won progress of the past two decades—achieved through immense sacrifice—now tragically lost. Millions of women and girls see their dreams shattered, fundamental rights eroded, and our youth face unemployment and a future clouded by despair.

A group has seized control of our nation's destiny, ruling over forty million people with no coherent political vision for prosperity or progress. Their actions reflect a profound disregard for our nation's rich culture, enduring values, and true principles of Islam leading only to widespread suffering and devastation.

Despite repeated UN and international calls for patience and pragmatic engagement, the Taliban have become increasingly emboldened. Instead of halting their policies, they have intensified oppressive restrictions, imposed a gender apartheid environment, and focused solely on consolidating power. Their four-year rule has produced nothing but poverty, isolation, and misery, manipulating geopolitical complexities to the detriment of the Afghan people.

The consequences are dire: Afghanistan's economy collapses, forcing millions to flee. Refugees and returnees face uncertainty, while journalists, women protesters, former officials, and security

personnel and Shia and Hazara communities endure retribution, forced disappearances, targeted killings, arbitrary detention, and torture.

The Taliban invest in extremist madrasas while opposing modern education, silencing women, and denying half the population their basic rights. Their recent ban on women attending nursing and midwifery classes at private institutes epitomizes their ignorance and hostility to the people of Afghanistan. Imagine being a woman in Afghanistan—denied education, confined to your home, stripped of professional opportunities. Consider how it would feel to see your daughters barred from attending high school or university.

The security situation remains deeply concerning, as foreign terrorist fighters pose a potential threat by establishing training camps, regrouping, and reorganizing in Afghanistan.

Humanitarian metrics are alarming: Over 23.7 million Afghans need urgent aid, with 12.4 million experiencing severe food insecurity. Nearly 45% of children under five are stunted, and 14% face acute malnutrition. Women and children suffer disproportionately, yet humanitarian funding covers only 37.5% of the required \$3.06 billion. Afghanistan's GDP has contracted by 30%, with 97% of people living below the poverty line.

Madam President,

In this critical situation, what should be done? While we are deeply grateful to the UN and international partners for their life-saving support, this approach is not sustainable. Achieving sustainable economic growth and self-sufficiency requires an accountable and inclusive government that effectively utilizes Afghanistan's natural resources, human capital, and development aid. To achieve this objective, a strong, united international position is necessary to support and facilitate political dialogue. However, the Taliban oppose political dialogue and continue ruling by force to solidify their power and maintain the status quo.

We welcome the international community's principled stance on supporting inclusivity and pressuring the Taliban to adhere to international human rights obligations and end their oppressive policies and restrictions on women and girls. We commend the statements of condemnation and practical actions aimed at holding the Taliban accountable under the International Criminal Court (ICC) and International Court of Justice (ICJ) for their systemic discrimination and gender-based persecution. We ask the ICC prosecutor to expediate the investigation.

Justice and accountability are vital for rebuilding trust and restoring the rule of law. Mechanisms to document and address human rights violations must be strengthened. In this regard, we admire and support the work of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights in Afghanistan and welcome his recent report. We also support the extension of the mandate of the monitoring team to ensure effective implementation of the sanctions regime.

Given the decline in humanitarian funding, we call on member states to advocate for increased funding to address Afghanistan's humanitarian crisis. Aid delivery must prioritize vulnerable groups and women's involvement as well as ensuring effectiveness through consistent oversight and reporting mechanisms. We also underline the importance of regional cooperation and commend our neighboring countries for their continued support in facilitating trade, transit, and humanitarian cooperation for the benefit of Afghan people.

We are deeply grateful to neighboring countries, particularly Pakistan and Iran, for hosting millions of Afghan refugees with remarkable patience and hospitality. However, as the winter intensifies, we urgently call on these nations to halt any decision on expulsions Afghan refugees especially those whose lives are at risk and appeal to international partners to fast-track resettlement programs while extending greater support to host communities.

Madam President,

The Taliban and their actions are not representing the true culture of Afghan people and Islamic values. The Taliban must understand that legitimacy cannot be achieved through repressive policies and distorted interpretations of Sharia. Governance based on oppression and tyranny is unsustainable. History shows that tyrannical regimes eventually fall, as the people's resilience prevails.

We call on the Taliban: Enough is enough. The Afghan people have endured decades of unimaginable suffering and conflict. It is time to cease inflicting further pain, abandon oppressive policies, and respond to the legitimate demands of both the Afghan people and the international community. Prioritize education for all, uphold your commitments, and engage in meaningful political dialogue to establish an inclusive system of governance that reflects the will of the people, upholds justice, and is rooted in the rule of law.

To all Afghans: Unite and craft a shared vision for a democratic, stable Afghanistan. Engage in dialogue through an Afghan-led and Afghan owned process facilitated by the UN to find a political solution.

Our plea to the international community is clear: Prevent Afghanistan from becoming a terrorism breeding ground. Support efforts for a legitimate government rooted in the peoples' will. Adopt a unified approach against the Taliban's actions, using sanctions and other measures to ensure respect for Afghan rights and demands.

Madam President,

We welcome any international efforts and Afghan-led initiatives aimed at ensuring peace, stability, and prosperity through meaningful engagement and dialogue. However, any engagement must be principled, with clear benchmarks for inclusive system of governance and full and equal participation of women in public life.

While the UN-led Doha process and past initiatives have yielded no tangible result, we believe the platform retains potential if reoriented toward a unified international strategy. Taliban are not the only stakeholder. This must include all credible Afghan representatives—democratic forces, civil society actors, and women leaders. The Secretary-General's Independent Assessment Report provides a roadmap for achieving peace and reintegration. However, it is deeply regrettable that this Council has not expedited the appointment of a Special Envoy for Afghanistan.

Madam President,

In conclusion, despite the immense challenges my country faces, the resilient people of Afghanistan remain hopeful. Their aspiration is simple: a stable, prosperous and representative Afghanistan, living in peace and security with itself and its neighbors, fully committed to its international obligations. To achieve this, this Council has both the mandate and the moral responsibility to act decisively. Let us not abandon Afghanistan to oppression and despair. Instead, let us stand united to ensure justice, equity, and opportunity for its people, especially its women and girls. Our choices today will shape Afghanistan's future.

I thank you, Madam President